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Letter of Stephen A. Douglas to Gen. James Shields.

The original of the following letter was presented to the Illinois State Historical Society by Mr. Clinton L. Conkling, who has added an explanatory note to it:

Lewiston, April 2nd, 1841.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed I send you a letter from Mr. Maguire of St. Louis, containing a Certificate of Deposit upon one of the New York Banks which I hope you will find it convenient to arrange according to his letter of instructions. I hope you have found no difficulty in obtaining the money on the order I left with you for my salary with which to pay Mr. Maguire the ballance due him towit \$300.00. I have informed Mr. Maguire by letter of the arrangement with you to attend to his business and referred him to you.

Business aside, I have a few words to say on the score of friendship. I have entirely cleared the Docket in this county the first time for seven years, having disposed of between 300 and 400 cases. The members of the bar and the people generally have received and treated me with great kindness and courtesy, and seem to be entirely satisfied with the judicial change. In this respect have been agreeably disappointed, particularly with the Whigs, from whom I have a right to expect some opposition; but have experienced none. I shall leave here in the morning for Rushville where I shall expect to have the pleasure of receiving a letter from you. You will excuse my neglect in writing to you and place it on the ground of great pressure of business, which could not be postponed. Present my respects our friends Doyle, Eastham, Tyler, Wal-

ters &c &c, and tell them that absence strengthens the ties of friendship. I remain truly your friend,

S. A. Douglass.

Col. James Shields,
Springfield.

NOTE—The person referred to in the letter from Judge Douglas as Eastham was “Marvellous Eastham.” He was a financier and politician here in those days; was a bachelor and died in this county. Antrim Campbell is said to have been administrator of his estate. In the signature book of the Old State Bank of Illinois, now in the possession of William Ridgely, appears the signature of John Duff & Co., a firm consisting of John Duff, John Taylor and M. Eastham. They are said to have been contractors. It is probable that the Taylor referred to in Judge Douglas’ letter was this John Taylor.

C. L. Conkling.